

Annual State Goals and Reports of Progress

Results of Comprehensive Statewide Assessment of the Rehabilitation Needs of Individuals with Disabilities and Need to Establish, Develop, or Improve Community Rehabilitation Programs

State Unified Plan

The Designated State Units (DSU)'s in South Dakota submit this attachment to the "Needs Assessment" section of the State Unified Plan. The public vocational rehabilitation agencies in South Dakota are submitting attachment 4.12(a) with the state plan update to reflect that a comprehensive statewide needs assessment has been accomplished with this plan submission. As a partner in the State Unified Plan, public vocational rehabilitation has conducted an assessment of the needs of all individuals with disabilities as per the Needs Assessment section of the State Unified Plan and the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act and state plan requirements. Public vocational rehabilitation included other workforce partners on a work group to develop the instrument and methodology to assure that the workforce needs of the state to include individuals with disabilities was addressed. This assessment included the vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with most significant disabilities, individuals with disabilities who have been unserved and underserved and all components of the Statewide Workforce Investment System.

In addition public vocational rehabilitation conducts annual needs assessments and focus groups for the need to establish, develop, and improve community rehabilitation programs in the state. This on-going assessment process includes workforce investment system public providers and private providers to address the needs of all citizens served by the one-stop system to include the needs of individuals with disabilities served by the system.

Public vocational rehabilitation also collects, reviews, and recommends improvements to needs assessments performed by other partners in both the workforce investment system and public agencies who work with and provide programming to individuals with disabilities. This oversight and review is intended to coordinate services and systems statewide for individuals with disabilities.

Statewide Needs Assessment

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (Division or DRS) and the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation worked with other divisions and councils to complete a statewide needs assessment during FFY 2004. This assessment done every three years describes the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities residing within the State.

In order to efficiently utilize resources and provide for a broad based assessment, DRS did collaborate with other entities in accomplishing the assessment. The needs assessment has been completed and the results from the assessment are being compiled. The survey results were shared with the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation at the March 16, 2005 meeting.

The Comprehensive Statewide Assessment to identify the rehabilitation and career needs of individuals with disabilities is regularly accomplished through a variety of additional assessment mechanisms. The process is contingent upon Board input and input from other organizations involved in the assessment process. Ongoing comprehensive assessments are conducted through surveys, focus groups, case file reviews and other activities initiated by the Division and in conjunction with other entities.

These assessments assist the Division to identify the needs of individuals with disabilities who:

- ✓ have the most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment services;
- ✓ are minorities and have been unserved or underserved; and

✓ are served through other components of the statewide workforce investment system.

The Division has taken great strides to ensure students with disabilities experience a seamless system between the IEP and Individual Plan for Employment (IPE). The Division's policy is to include relevant components of the IEP into the IPE. In addition, the Division has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Office of Special Education to promote the referrals of students with disabilities at an earlier age. The SD Transition Project has played an integral role in promoting collaboration between education and vocational rehabilitation to work collaboratively in preparing students for the world of work.

The Board of DRS provides valuable guidance and direction in assessing the comprehensive needs that need to be addressed. In addition, the Board provides valuable input into establishing state goals and priorities and reports of progress. Attachment 4.12(c) (1) reflects goals established by the Boards that directly correlate to the needs and priorities addressed in this attachment to the State Plan.

Summary of Statewide Needs Assessment - Completed FFY 2004

The 2004 Statewide Needs Assessment presents the results of the third South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services survey on the triumphs and challenges of persons with disabilities in South Dakota. A large sample (738) of South Dakota residents with disabilities sixteen (16) years of age and older was interviewed. More than thirty-nine thousand (39,360) telephone calls were placed to twenty thousand random digit telephone numbers. Of the twenty thousand (20,000) random digits, thirteen thousand four hundred and seventy-four (13,474) were non-working or nonresidential telephone numbers. Six thousand five hundred and twenty-six (6,526) telephone numbers were not eliminated and were assumed to be valid residential numbers. A total of four thousand four hundred and eighty (4,480) telephone interviews were completed. That extraordinary effort was necessary to identify the households of persons with disabilities and complete a sufficient number of surveys in order to satisfy the sampling design. Inquiry was made about each person's participation in their community including their experiences with employment, their sources of income, transportation, housing, health care, social interaction, assistive services and education. The intent of the study is to provide information that will allow us to better understand challenges faced by a South Dakotan with a disability.

a. Findings

- Fifty-nine percent (58.8%) of the respondents classified their disability as somewhat or very severe. This result is approximately four percentage points below that reported in the 2000 South Dakota study.

Findings in:		
1996	2000	2004
63.9%	62.9%	58.8%

Findings in:		
1996	2000	2004
76.0%	78.8%	83.2%

- Physical disabilities (83.2%) are by far the most commonly reported disability and are steadily becoming a greater percentage of the total.

- In 2004, the disability population is self assessed as being forty-one (40.9%) percent retired, twenty-six percent (26.3%) completely unable to work because of a disability or health problem, twenty-six percent (25.5%) participating or trying to participate in the work force, and homemakers (0.9%), students (2.2%), or unemployed and not looking for work (2.8%) make up

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
37.6%	36.5%	40.9%
30.6%	30.4%	26.3%
22.9%	25.3%	25.5%
1.0%	1.9%	0.9%
3.3%	3.1%	2.2%
3.1%	1.9%	2.8%

the remainder. The increase in retired participants most likely reflects an aging population as opposed to other retirement considerations.

1) Health Care Related Services

- Eighty percent (81.3%) of persons with disabilities are somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the health care services that they have received.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
79.1%	80.2%	81.3%

- Ninety percent (89.9%) of the respondents indicated that they have health care coverage. Seventy-two percent of those with health care coverage (71.6%) receive it through a government program or as a benefit.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
85.4%	92.8%	89.9%
63.7%	65.2%	71.6%

- The majority of the respondents (53.5%) said that their family spent less than one thousand (0 to 999) dollars for disability related expenses last year. Thirty-two percent (31.8%) spent between one thousand (1,000) and five thousand (4,999) dollars and eight percent (8.3%) spent five thousand (5,000+) dollars or more on disability

Findings in:*

1996	2000	2004
55.9%	54.8%	53.5%
25.4%	27.4%	31.8%
9.6%	10.7%	8.3%
35.0%	38.1%	40.1%

*Nominal Dollars

related expenses last year. The fact that forty percent (40.1%) of South Dakota's disabled population have out of pocket expenses of one thousand or more (1,000+) dollars a year is

an important finding considering the median household income for the disabled is estimated at less than half that for the general population of South Dakota.

2) Technology and Assistive Devices

- Most South Dakotans (54.2%) with disabilities do not use special disability related assistive devices.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
55.2%	51.6%	54.2%

- Eighty-five percent (84.9%) of individuals with disabilities indicated that technology has improved how they can do things in their day-to-day life.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
68.6%	87.1%	84.9%

3) Transportation

- Thirty-seven percent (36.7%) either agree or strongly agree that their disability creates a significant transportation problem for them.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
45.0%	41.6%	36.7%

4) Housing

- Eighty-six percent (85.5%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that their house or apartment meets their essential accessibility needs. Fourteen percent (14.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
85.7%	83.1%	85.5%
13.2%	19.5%	14.4%

5) Employment

- Twenty-three percent (23.4%) of the survey participants said that they are working full or part time. Two percent (2.0%) indicated they were unemployed looking for work and an additional three percent (2.8%) said they were unemployed and not looking for work.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
18.6%	22.8%	23.4%
4.3%	2.5%	2.0%
3.1%	3.1%	2.8%

- Twenty-six percent (26.3%) said that they are completely unable to work. An additional eighteen percent (18.0%) of those surveyed thought their disability prevents them from finding and keeping a full time job.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
30.4%	30.4%	26.3%
24.0%	21.2%	18.0%

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
37.6%	36.5%	40.9%

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- Forty-one percent (40.9%) of those responding indicated that they are retired.

- All participants not currently working but have worked outside the home at some time were asked why they left their last job? The most common response (41.3%) was retirement followed by the former leading response of health or disability problems (40.1%). The result of an aging population is seen here again.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
53.1%	51.2%	40.1%
30.1%	30.9%	41.3%

- The vast majority of those interviewed (738) are employed full time, employed part time, retired or completely unable to work. Sixty-nine (69) respondents out of the total sample (738) fall outside the categories of employed full time, employed part time, retired or completely unable to work. Fifteen (15) of the sixty-nine are unemployed but looking for work, Twenty-one (21) are unemployed but not looking for work and thirty-three (33) indicated they have other pursuits that include student, trainee, volunteer and homemaker statuses.

- The most common response (36.2%) given by the sixty-nine (69) individuals for not currently working was that they can't work.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
31.8%	36.2%	36.2%
of 89	69	69

- From the survey data, the unemployment rate for the people with disabilities unemployed and looking for work is estimated at two percent (2.0%). That rate is one and two tenths of a percentage point lower than the state's average 11 month average unemployment rate from January through November (3.2%). Labor force and unemployment data is from the South Dakota Department of Labor.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
4.3%	2.5%	2.0%
3.2%	2.3%	3.2%

- Twelve percent (11.8%) of the unemployed respondents that have worked outside the home said their fear of losing benefits keeps them from accepting or seeking employment.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
18.8%	17.9%	11.8%

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- Five percent (4.6%) of the respondents employed full or part time thought they needed a personal attendant while at work in order to keep their job.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
10.4%	8.5%	4.6%

- Twelve percent (11.8%) of the unemployed thought having a personal attendant would help them get a job.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
22.9%	10.7%	11.8%

6) Finding a Job (Excluding Responses from Completely Unable to Work and Retired)

- Twenty-four percent (23.6%) of the able to work and not retired respondents think they need help in selecting a job that is right for them. If those currently working full time are also excluded from the calculation, the percentage indicating that they need help in selecting a job that is right for them increases to thirty-two percent (32.4%).

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
30.2%	23.0%	23.6%
36.4%	29.0%	32.4%

7) Assistive Services

- Twenty-six percent (25.5%) said they need more information about their rights under the American Disabilities Act.
- Forty-seven percent (46.7%) of the full and part time students (21) said they would need assistance in making a transition from school to a job in the community. Forty-seven percent (46.7%) indicated they would not need such assistance and seven percent (6.7%) were not sure if they would or not.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
35.8%	36.8%	25.5%

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
50.0%	9.5%	46.7%
50.0%	66.7%	46.7%
0.0%	23.8%	6.7%

8) Adequacy of Governmental Services

- Fifty-two percent (51.6%) of the total respondents (738) think state government is doing a good or very good job of helping people with disabilities.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
55.3%	54.8%	51.6%

9) Quality of Life Expectations

- Forty percent (40.1%) of all the respondents (738) said they expect their life to get worse in the next four years. Thirty-two percent (32.1%) think their will be no change in their life's quality. Twenty-one percent (21.1%) think life will get better.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
42.2%	42.6%	40.1%
27.5%	32.5%	32.1%
23.1%	19.4%	21.1%

10) Information Sources

- Respondents were asked where they most often get information. The most frequently mentioned sources were their doctor or hospital (43.1%) and word of mouth (14.2%). Sources for word of mouth include friends, relatives, neighbors, and other persons with disabilities. These leading sources are followed by social workers and counselors, the internet and the VA or the Prairie Freedom Two group.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
38.9%	34.9%	43.1%
29.4%	30.4%	14.2%

11) Control In Living

- Sixty-five percent (64.6%) of respondents said that they exercise the most control over decisions affecting their work.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
64.8%	65.1%	64.6%

- Seventy percent (69.5%) of the participants in the survey said that they have the most control over transportation.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
60.7%	64.2%	69.5%

- Seventy-nine percent (79.4.0%) said they have the most control over their housing decisions.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
68.0%	70.0%	79.4%

- Ninety-three percent (92.5%) have the most control when selecting friends.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
86.1%	85.4%	92.5%

- Eighty-one percent (80.9%) said they have the most control over their money.

Findings in:

1996	2000	2004
72.5%	77.0%	80.9%

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- Eighty-seven percent (87.1%) reported that they have the most control over social and recreational activities.

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
79.1%	76.6%	87.1%

12) Socialization in Community

- Half of the respondents (49.9%) said that they do not participate in any community activities or organizations.
- Of those that do participate in community activities, seventy-two percent (71.8%) said they attend one or two meetings a week.

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
55.5%	59.8%	49.9%

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
72.1%	70.2%	71.8%

13) Socialization with Friends

- The majority of the survey participants (63.4%) get together with friends two (2) or fewer times a week.
- It takes less than half a day for eighty percent (80.4%) of the respondents to arrange transportation to their best friend's house.

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
55.5%	58.9%	63.4%

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
83.0%	78.8%	80.4%

14) Socialization with Neighbors

- Sixty-one percent (60.7%) of the participants described their closest neighbor as a friend or close friend.
- Thirty-eight percent (38.1%) of the survey participants have a neighbor that has a disability.

Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
60.7%	63.0%	60.7%

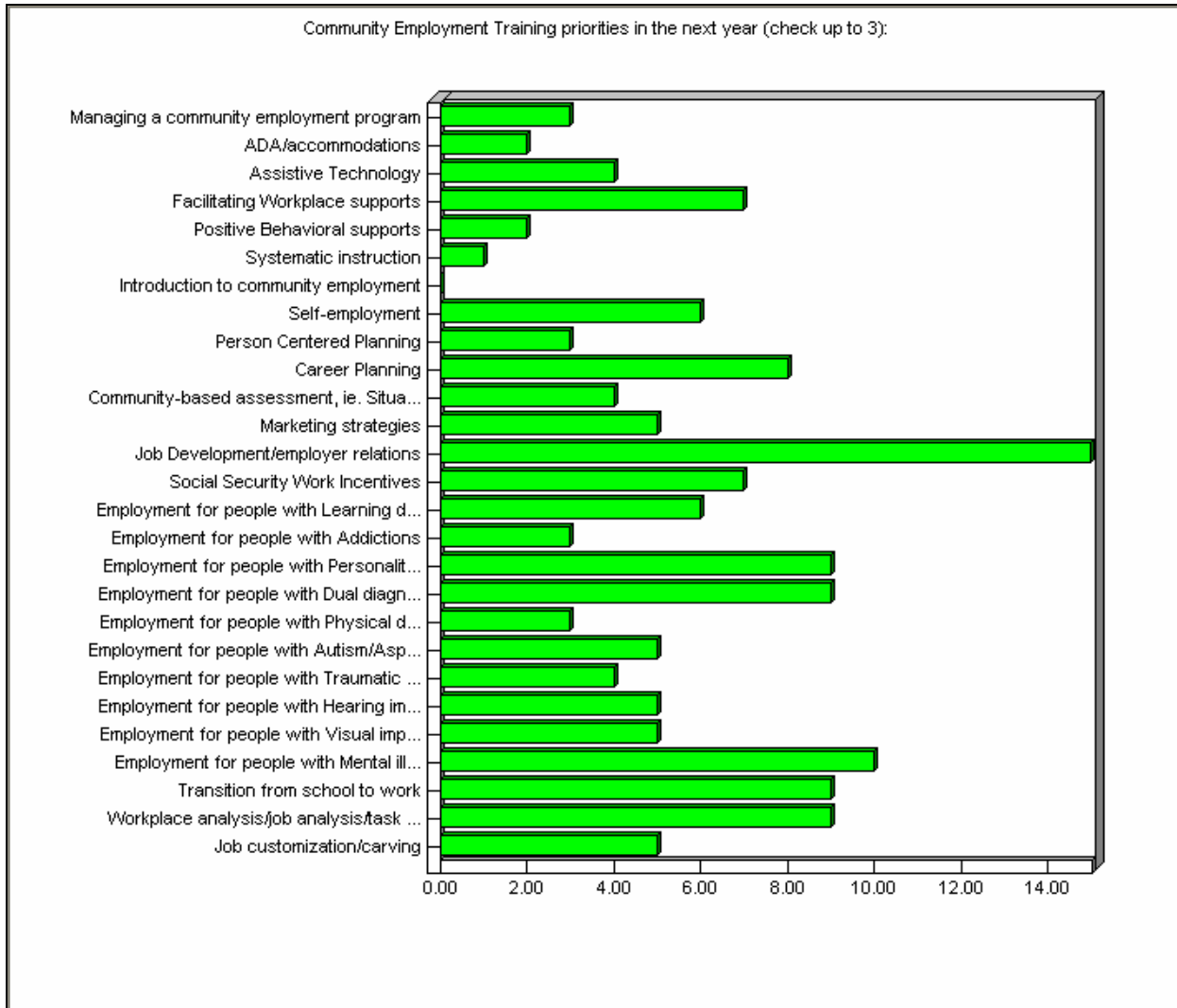
Findings in:

<i>1996</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2004</i>
33.3%	35.5%	38.1%

Assessment of the need to establish, develop or improve Community Rehabilitation Programs

Region VIII CRP RCEP at CTAT conducted a needs assessment completed in December, 2004 of the needs of the community rehabilitation programs in South Dakota. The Center for Technical Assistance training is utilizing the results of this assessment to fund and assist with training for CRPs in South Dakota.

Following is a summary of their results with their greatest needs as the highest number.



The Division regularly reviews assessments that are done by other agencies and organizations that include individuals with disabilities. These, coupled with the results of the assessment methods described in this attachment provide valuable information that assists in determining goals and priorities in public rehabilitation in South Dakota.

Goals and Strategies

Findings from the statewide needs assessment and a number of other activities are utilized to identify goals and strategies to improve services. Goals and priorities are addressed in attachment 4.12(c)(1) through a number of activities planned with input elicited from the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, consumers of services and other partners in vocational rehabilitation. Strategies are addressed attachment 4.12(d). In addition to the statewide needs assessment, the following activities are instrumental in developing appropriate state goals and priorities and strategies for use of Title I funds in innovation and expansion activities:

- Consumer Satisfaction Surveys;
- Public Meetings;
- Focus Groups;
- Case file reviews;
- Conferences and Seminars;
- Board and SILC Strategic Planning Sessions.

The results reported for the state wide needs assessment for this year's state plan submission will be analyzed and strategies developed to address identified needs. Future state plan updates will address results from activities that provide information pertinent to goals and priorities and strategies to address innovation and expansion activities. Collaboration between the State Workforce Investment Council, Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Statewide Independent Living Council and other entities in the workforce, education and social service systems will occur to ensure continuity of policies and procedures for service provision.